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---MEDIA RELEASE---

**PRIVATE BUSINESSES URGED TO COORDINATE HURRICANE
KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS THROUGH NATIONAL WEBSITE**

(September 9, 2005)--- Mayor Eddie Perez is thanking local Hartford businesses, City employees, and residents for their heartfelt contributions towards the Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts. Mayor Perez says, "The opening of your hearts and wallets to the evacuees and victims of this national disaster has been without question, a source of strength and hope to our fellow Americans in need."

Many private businesses have been interested in learning how to contribute to the ongoing relief efforts. They are being referred to a national website, set up by the federal government that will help coordinate these private contributions. It is the National Emergency Resource Registry at www.swern.gov.

Mayor Perez is encouraging individuals to continue their generous support through national organizations, like the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, because they are set up to directly help the victims of this crisis, and the need will continue for some time to come.

If people have questions concerning evacuees arriving in Connecticut, they are being referred to the 2-1-1 Helpline. This way, a database can be set up and victims can be monitored and connected to services as coordinated through federal, regional, and state resources.